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UNCW remains behind in minority numbers

MARC MAREADY

STAFF WRITER

UNCW is one of the ethnically homogeneous universities in the state, but admissions officers say they are taking new steps to mix up the consistency of the campus.

UNCW consistently enrolls fewer minority students—which refers to all ethnicities besides whites—than other University of North Carolina system schools such as Chapel Hill, Greensboro and Charlotte, Roxie Shabazz, assistant vice chancellor for admissions, said.

This is due, in part, to the racial and ethnic make up of the regions of other schools, she said.

This year, minority students make up only 9 percent of the student body; 5 percent are African-American, 1 percent are Indian and 3 percent make up the remainder of other ethnicities.

While these numbers are low, they are close to the averages held by many other historically white UNC system schools. On average

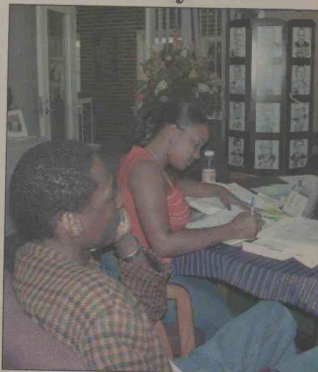
such schools hold a minority student representation of about 10.1 percent of the entire student body. With these figures, UNCW would fall just short of average.

Although this year's freshman class is the biggest in the school's history, minority enrollment numbers have not increased significantly.

Shabazz said that more minority students have been admitted and are coming, but that the Admissions department is now focusing on why minority students are choosing not to apply to UNCW. Lack of applications from minority students is where Bob Fry, assistant to the chancellor for planning, said the real problem lies in creating a greater sense of diversity on campus.

"The location of UNCW—the beach—is not a big seller for minority students," Shabazz said, but she acknowledges that the beach is a tremendous draw for white students.

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Senior Seven Vereen and Freshman Marquita McAlpinc study in the Upperman Center located in the University Union

City elections head for run-off races

CHRIS W. ROGERS

STAFF WRITER

The Wilmington municipal elections ended last Tuesday night with candidates heading for run-offs in the mayor and city council races, but without much student participation.

"I think if [voter turnout] could have been better than it was," said Senior Mike Jenkins, president of political science club. "I don't think there was as much interest as there should have been [for students about the voting], and I encourage all students to get out on November 6 and vote in the runoff."

Voter turnout through the area was light as well, but community members will get a second chance to have their voices heard in the run-off election.

There had been strong suspicions that there would be run-offs in this year's municipal elections. The crowded field of candi-

dates—including 6 mayoral candidates and 21 candidates for the three empty city council seats—assured it.

Harper

Peterson had the most votes for mayor leading by less than one percent over Charlie Riverbark, triggering a mayoral runoff.

Peterson said annexation played an important role in this election, and the voters were sending a message that they support a candidate who is in favor of some kind of consolidation. Peterson said people are given an

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—Mike Jenkins, political science club president.

even larger turnout when a burden was added and an alternative should be sought. There was more support for Peterson than Riverbark in the newly annexed areas.

Jim Quir and Katherine Moore came o-

as winners for city council seat Jack Watkins, who has run unsuccessfully in a previous bid for council, came in third. Joel Nesselroade and Jason Thomson—both newcomers to Wilmington politics—came fourth and fifth.

Quinn had the most votes of one of the three city council se-

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Mayoral candidate Harper Peterson

PHOTO BY CHRIS W. ROGERS